NCA
VOC FOR IOP/FN
POLITICAL FEATURE NO. 1-1846 NOVEMBER 17, 1976
GEORGE HALSEY/WILLIAMSBURG

NATO PARLIAMENTARIANS AND DOCTOR KISSINGER

ANNCR:

SECRETARY OF STATE HENRY KISSINGER BROKE NO NEW GROUND WHEN HE APPEARED BEFORE THE LEGISLATORS FROM FIFTEEN NORTH ATLANTIC TREATY ORGANIZATION COUNTRIES THIS WEEK. BUT AS VOA NEWS ANALYST GEORGE HALSEY TELLS US IN THIS REPORT FROM WILLIAMSBURG, VIRGINIA, HE USED THE OCCASION TO RESTATE BASIC AMERICAN POLICY SEVERAL TIMES IN SUCH TERMS AS TO BRING APPLAUSE FROM THE DELEGATES.

VOICE:

THE SECRETARY ACKNOWLEDGED FROM THE OUTSET, OF COURSE, HIS OWN IMINENT DEPARTURE FROM THE GOVERNMENT. BUT FROM THE WARMTH OF MISTER KISSINGER'S RECEPTION AND THE CAREFUL ATTENTION GIVEN HIS WORDS, IT IS EVIDENT THAT HIS IMPACT ON THE LEGISLATORS OF THE NATO MEMBERS HAS BEEN CONSIDERABLE OVER THE YEARS, AND WILL NOT SOON BE FORGOTTEN.

REGARDLESS OF THE DEGREE TO WHICH DOCTOR KISSINGER HAS PUT HIS OWN PERSONAL STAMP ON CONDUCTING AMERICAN FOREIGN POLICY, HE INSISTED, AT EVERY OPPORTUNITY, THAT THE BASIC OBJECTIVES OF THAT POLICY HAVE HAD AND WILL HAVE BIPARTISAN SUPPORT WITHIN THIS COUNTRY. HE LISTED AS ENDURING REALITIES THAT THE UNITED STATES ALWAYS WILL STAND FOR PEACE, ALWAYS WILL UPHOLD THE SECURITY OF ITS FRIENDS BETTER THAN IT IS.

IN HIS BRIEF STATEMENT AND HIS ANSWERS TO WIDE-RANGING QUESTIONS, A NINETY MINUTE SESSION IN ALL, DOCTOR KISSINGER HAD AN OBVIOUSLY SYMPATHETIC AUDIENCE THAT AGREED WITH MOST OF WHAT HE SAID. WHEN THERE WAS DISAGREEMENT, HE EXERCISED HIS WELL-KNOWN SENSE OF HUMOR TO BRIDGE THE GAP. FOR EXAMPLE, WHEN A

GREEK DELEGATE ASKED HIM TO COMMENT ON THE GREEK-TURKISH DISPUTE, THE SECRETARY SAID THAT HE IS PERHAPS RECKLESS BUT NOT SUICIDAL. HIS SERIOUS COMMENT WAS THAT THE DISPUTE HAD BEEN A DISASTER FOR THE TWO COUNTRIES AND FOR NATO AND THAT THERE COULD BE NO VICTOR ON EITHER SIDE.

HE TALKED ABOUT PUBLIC SUPPORT FOR NATO, NOTING THAT IN THE TWO COUNTRIES THAT HELD NATIONAL ELECTIONS THIS YEAR -- WEST GERMANY AND THE UNITED STATES -- CONTENDERS DISCUSSED NATO IN TERMS OF WHETHER INCUMBENTS OR OPPONENTS COULD BETTER HANDLE THE OBLIGATIONS OF MEMBERSHIP. SECRETARY KISSINGER SAID THERE IS NO DISPUTE ABOUT THE CENTRAL ROLE OF NATO IN OUR LIVES. HE TALKED ABOUT GROWING COOPERATION AMONG THE NATO MEMBERS BEYOND MILITARY CONCERN SAYING THAT ALL REALIZE THAT A MILITARY DEFENSE SYSTEM WITHOUT POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC CONSENSUS BEHIND IT ULTIMATELY WILL PROVE EMPTY.

LOOKING AT RELATIONS BETWEEN THE SOVIET UNION AND CHINA, DOCTOR KISSINGER AGREED THAT THEY MAY MAKE A RAPPROCHEMENT BUT THAT NATIONAL INTEREST WILL LIMIT ITS EXTENT. IN ANY CASE, HE SAID, THERE SHOULD BE NO SENSE OF PANIC IN NATO.

THERE WERE MANY QUESTIONS AND MANY FAMILIAR ANSWERS FROM SECRETARY KISSINGER, BUT THE REMARKS THAT RECEIVED THE MOST APPLAUSE AND VERBAL APPROVAL WHERE THOSE IN WHICH HE PROMISED COMPLETE COOPERATION WITH PRESIDENT-ELECT CARTER. HE WISHES THE NEW ADMINISTRATION WELL HE SAID, PLEDGING HIS CONTINUED SUPPORT FOR THE BASIC PRINCIPLES OF AMERICAN FOREIGN POLICY. IF THAT RESULTS IN A MORE EFFECTIVE POLICY, HE SAID, HE WILL BE DELIGHTED.

THE OVATION THAT FOLLOWED SECRETARY KISSINGER OUT OF THE HALL WAS EVIDENCE THAT MOST OF THE NATO PARLIAMENTARIANS WILL BE DELIGHTED TOO.

JS/RCS